IN THE CLAIMS

1 (Amended). A high intensity discharge lamp assembly, comprising:

a) a high intensity discharge lamp comprising a hermetically sealed glass envelope containing a mixture of ionizable elements and/or compounds;

b) a sealed ballast container mounted adjacent to said glass envelope;

c) an electronic ballast contained in said container, said ballast having an input and an output;

d) an anode disposed in said envelope and electrically coupled to one pole of said ballast output;

e) a cathode disposed in said envelope and electrically coupled to another pole of said ballast output; and

f) coupling means for coupling said input of said ballast to a DC power source; and

g) heat sink means for dissipating heat from said ballast.

2 (Amended). A lamp assembly according to claim 1, further comprising:

h) a waterproof protective container covering said envelope, said waterproof protective container having a transparent window.

3 (Amended). A lamp assembly according to claim 1, further comprising:

h) a waterproof protective container covering said envelope and said ballast container, said waterproof protective container having a transparent window.

9. 4 (Amended). A lamp assembly according to claim 1, wherein:

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said coupling means is a cable with a wet pluggable plug at one end for coupling/uncoupling to/from a battery pack while under water.

10. 6 (Amended). A lamp assembly according to claim 1, wherein:

said ballast container is potted with a thermally conductive epoxy, said epoxy serving as said heat sink means.

8 (Amended). An underwater lighting system, comprising:

a) a high intensity discharge lamp comprising a hermetically sealed glass envelope containing a mixture of ionizable elements and/or compounds;

b) a sealed ballast container mounted adjacent to said glass envelope;

c) an electronic ballast contained in said container, said ballast having an input and an output;

d) an anode disposed in said envelope and electrically coupled to one pole of said ballast output;

e) a cathode disposed in said envelope and electrically coupled to another pole of said ballast output;

f) a battery pack having a power coupling; and

g) a cable coupled to said input of said ballast to said power output of said battery pack; and

h) heat sink means for dissipating heat from said ballast.

8. ~~9~~ (Amended). An underwater lighting system according to claim ~~8~~ 7, further comprising:

i) a waterproof protective container covering said envelope, said waterproof protective container having a transparent window.

10 (Amended). An underwater lighting system according to claim 8, further comprising:

i) a waterproof protective container covering said envelope and said ballast container, said waterproof protective container having a transparent window.

11. ~~13~~ (Amended). An underwater lighting system according to claim ~~8~~, wherein:

said ballast container is potted with a thermally conductive epoxy, said epoxy serving as said heat sink means.